

## Lead Yourself

### Lesson 2-7: Knowing God

#### Discussion Guide – Confidentiality Reminder

#### One Word Check-in

#### Update – Personal, Business, Leadership

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*“And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” John 17:3 (NLT – This is the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to his arrest.)*

*“Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)*

**God wants you to know Him deeply.** The Lord seeks to have a relationship with you individually. A sermon delivered by Dr. S. M. Lockridge called [“Do you know Him?”](#) is a contemporary explanation. This is the very essence and beginning of having a healthy spiritual walk and a relationship with the creator of the universe. So, the question is, “Do you know Him?” If you do, we have a beginning point for our conversation. If you do not, please talk with your group leader or your pastor about your next steps.

**God is at work all around you and He wants you to join Him so he can accomplish His work through you.** Henry Blackaby wrote [“Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God.”](#) This is a fantastic study of really experiencing Him in your everyday life, including at work. God has a specific message and task for you to accomplish, but you must put yourself in a position that you can hear Him. This requires studying and meditating on God’s Word and spending time in prayer. There are no shortcuts.

**The Bible is God’s Word to you specifically.** The Bible is God’s Word, given through people that had first-hand experiences with Jesus. The Gospels, which are the first four books of the New Testament, are the accounts of four followers of Jesus. These were apostles themselves, their scribes or their disciples. Essentially, these are first-hand accounts of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The remaining portion of the New Testament are letters from the apostles written to people and churches in the first century, most within 30 years of Jesus’ resurrection. These books are first-hand accounts, not hearsay. The first four verses of 1 John share the intensity of their experience. As you begin your study and meditation, have a journal to process what you are hearing and thinking. Begin with a prayer that asks God to reveal Himself to you. Remember that He is more interested in building your character in the likeness of Jesus than having you accomplish things you think are important. The more God builds your character, the larger the assignment you may get. Expect to be overwhelmed, because He wants you to depend on Him. Hearing from God necessitates consistency in His Word.

**You experience God deeply when hearing and then doing what God has asked you to do, which is an act of worship.** When you experience God in this manner, you know it is Him and your love for Him will grow. He will also give you deeper insight into how He works and His plan for you.

#### **Shared Experiences:**

- What is someone’s experience with understanding God’s love for you and His desire for you to love Him?
- Can someone share how they have seen God at work and how they knew it was God?
- Can someone share about seasons of life when you felt more connected to God than others?
- Today, how would you describe your relationship with God?
- Can someone share what keeps you from knowing God the way you desire?
- Has anyone ever sensed God leading them to do something in their workplace? Please explain.

**Bottom line:** God desires a relationship with you, and He wants to build your character around the model of Jesus. He wants you to understand how much He loves you and those around you. He seeks to use you where He is already working. He wants you to experience Him in new ways, which will lead to knowing Him deeply.

#### One Word Check-out

### Dig Deeper

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#### Want to learn more?

- *Video:* [Bringing faith into the workplace based on Biblical principles](#) by Henry Blackaby. Blackaby shares how he is working with 170 CEOs of Fortune 500 companies.
- *Podcast:* [Approaching God \(Audio\)](#) by Henry Blackaby. This is an excellent recording of how to hear God speak to you.
- *Video:* [Ken Blanchard Lead Like Jesus](#) is a great video! Ken was not a believer until later in life. The video begins with Ken discussing how he came to faith.
- *Video:* [The Heart of Leadership](#) by Mark Miller, vice president for organizational effectiveness at Chick-Fil-A
- *Study Guide:* [Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God](#). This is one of the best Bible studies available. We strongly encourage you to do this study with a group of friends.
- *Blog:* [No Matter the Year Love Still Works](#) by Joel Manby

#### Henry Blackaby shares seven realities of experiencing God (from “Experiencing God – Knowing and Doing the Will of God”):

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.
5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and he accomplishes His work through you.

#### Other relevant Scriptures:

*“I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called – his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him.” Ephesians 1:16b-18 (NLT – This is a portion of Paul’s prayer for the church at Ephesus.)*

*“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)*

*“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!” Psalm 139:17 (ESV)*

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)*